

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, claim 9 is objected to based on the reason set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants believe that the objection to claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2002/0144144) and further in view of Zelig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,339,929). Claims 3, 4, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss and Zelig, and further in view of Jung (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2002/0129150). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss, Zelig, and Jung, and further in view of Lim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,096). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss, Zelig, Jung, and Lim, and further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,020,084). Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss, Zelig, Tanaka and further in view of Hoke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,437). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss, Zelig, and Jung, and further in view of Tanaka. Finally, claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weiss, Zelig, Jung, and Tanaka, and further in view of Ball et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,200).

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss / Zelig) - Claims 1 and 2

Primary reference Weiss is directed to a method and system for common control of virtual private network devices. Common control is achieved by configuring one or more virtual private network devices, connected to both an open network and private local area networks, to authenticate clients through a centralized database or directory. The database or directory

contains network access information or access policy for use by the virtual private network device(s) to control secure transactions over the open network between clients and the local area networks. The method and system may be used for sharing virtual private network devices between multiple private local area networks to allow various entities with private networks to employ the benefits of working over an open network such as the Internet, while simultaneously avoiding the high cost of acquiring and maintaining their own virtual private network devices.

See Abstract of Weiss.

Secondary reference Zelig is directed to a method for data broadcast over a network wherein the method includes receiving at a virtual bridge a data packet to be flooded over the network, and passing the data packet from the virtual bridge to a multicast-capable router, along with a broadcast indication. Responsive to the broadcast indication, the router determines a group of destination addresses to which the packet should be multicast, and creates copies of the packet for transmission over the network to the destination addresses in the group. *See Abstract of Zelig.*

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that neither Weiss nor Zelig, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggests at least, “wherein, if a registration request is transferred through an identifier based on registration rules provided for a registration of at least one of the external home networks from a multi-home service application built into the information devices connected to the at least one of the external home networks, the control unit maps the requested at least one of the external home networks and the identifier into the database,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss/Zelig/Jung) - Claims 3, 4 and 16

Claims 3, 4 and 16 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 6-8 of the present Office Action.

Secondary reference Jung is directed to a system providing a virtual private network (VPN) service by connecting a VPN to a mobile communication network. A home agent (HA) stores location information of a mobile node (MN) and information on whether the MN is registered in the VPN. A foreign agent (FA) transmits a location registration request message to the HA by receiving location registration information of the MN, and transmits data to an ISP (Internet Service Provider) router in the same subnet upon receiving a VPN service request. A server provides the VPN service and a router network connects the VPN to the FA. The router network includes a server for searching an edge IP router in the network using an address of the FA. The HA prevents an MN from accepting a call request received from a specific node in an IP network while the MN is performing a VPN service. *See Abstract of Jung.*

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3, 4, and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from amended independent claim 1.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3, 4, and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from amended independent claim 1.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss/Zelig/Jung/Lim) - Claim 5

Claim 5 is rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 8-9 of the Office Action.

Lim is directed to a partially replicated database that is maintained so that updates made to a central database, or to another partially replicated database, are selectively propagated to the partially replicated database. Updates are propagated to a partially replicated database if the owner of the partially replicated database has "visibility" to the data being updated. Visibility is

determined by using predetermined rules stored in a rules database. Typically, the stored rules are assessed against data content of a plurality of tables making up a single logical entity, known as a docking object, that is being updated. *See Abstract of Lim.*

Applicants submit that claim 5 is patentable at least by virtue of its indirect dependency from claim 1. Lim does not make up for the deficiencies of the other applied references.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss / Zelig / Jung / Lim / Tanaka) - Claims 6 and 7

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 9-10 of the Office Action.

Tanaka is directed to a service of reducing the number of tunnels in exchange for a specified service fee. A communication system, which generates tunnels in physical lines and multiplexes a plurality of sessions on the physical lines, comprises a monitor unit for monitoring the state of use of tunnels and sessions used by the user when the user using a plurality of tunnels is a customer who requires service of reserving sessions in a smaller number of tunnels in exchange for a specified service fee; a tunnel/session control unit which performs control so as to gather the plurality of sessions of said user in a specified tunnel when the sessions currently used by the user can be reserved in a smaller number of tunnels; and a charging unit for charging a usage rate according to the number of tunnels or the number of physical lines used. *See Abstract of Tanaka.*

Applicants submit that claims 6 and 7 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect dependencies from claim 3. Tanaka does not make up for the deficiencies of the other applied references.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss / Zelig / Tanaka / Hoke) - Claims 8-15

Claims 8-15 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 10-17 of the present Office Action.

Hoke is directed to a computer system for processing communications in a virtual private network. The computer system operates in a selective mode, in which only communications transiting the virtual private network are processed according to specified virtual private network parameters, such as encryption, compression and authentication algorithms. Virtual private network communications passing between a public network and a private network are thus received and processed according to the algorithms, while other communications bypass the computer system. Multiple private networks may be served by a single computer system. *See Abstract of Hoke.*

First, Applicants submit that dependent claims 8-15 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect dependencies from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to claim 14, Applicants submit that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, “wherein, if the multicast packets are transferred to the one of the external home networks through the VPN tunnel, the middleware processing unit forwards the multicast packets to the information devices connected to the home network,” as recited in claim 14. The Examiner cites Zelig as allegedly satisfying the above quoted feature, and cites col. 4, lines 30-53 thereof. According to Applicants’ review of the cited portion of Zelig, Zelig only describes routing multicast packets to a particular multicast group, which includes various destination nodes in the VPN to which a packet should be forwarded. However, nowhere does Zelig disclose or suggest the specific feature that if multicast packets are transferred to one of the external home networks through the VPN, the middleware processing unit forwards the multicast packets to the information devices connected to the home network. This particular feature directing packets in different directions is not disclosed in Zelig.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss/Zelig/Jung/Tanaka) - Claim 17

Applicants submit that claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of its indirect dependency from claim 1. Tanaka does not make up for the deficiencies of the other applied references.

§103(a) Rejections (Weiss / Zelig / Jung / Tanaka / Ball) - Claims 18-20

Claims 18-20 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 17-19 of the present Office Action.

Ball is directed to a system for collecting and aggregating data from network entities for a data consuming application. The system includes a data collector layer to receive network flow information from the network entities and to produce records based on the information. The system also includes a flow aggregation layer fed from the data collection layer and coupled to a storage device. The flow aggregation layer receives records produced by the data collector layer and aggregates received records. The system can also include an equipment interface layer coupled to the data collector layer and a distribution layer to obtain selected information stored in the storage device and to distribute the select information to a requesting, data consuming application. *See Abstract of Ball.*

Applicants submit that claims 18-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect dependencies from claim 1. Ball does not make up for the deficiencies of the other applied references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/821,937

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

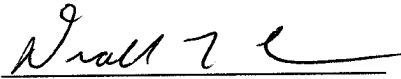
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